



Obituary

Dr. Naeem Ahmad Khan, FPAS



It is with great sorrow to share that we have lost an eminent Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Dr. Naeem Ahmad Khan, who left us on 29th September 2013 for his eternal life in the world beyond us.

Dr. Khan was born on April 12, 1928 in Hoshiarpur (East Punjab). He did BA (Hons) from St. Stephen's College, Delhi (1946); MA from Sind University (1950); MSc from Karachi University (1955); and PhD from University of Manchester (1958). He worked as a post-doctoral Fellow at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, England (1961-1962), and as a Research Fellow at the Bartol Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, USA (1964-1965).

He joined Indian Meteorological Department in 1946 and then opted to serve Pakistan and was transferred to Pakistan Meteorological Department. In 1961, he joined the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) as Senior Scientific Officer, and was promoted to Principal Scientific Officer in 1967, Chief Scientific Officer in 1970 and Chief Scientist in December 1986. Dr. Khan was appointed as Head, Nuclear Physics Division at the Atomic Energy Centre, Lahore (1965), and was appointed Director of the Centre in 1967. In 1969, he became Director of the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (PINSTECH). In 1970, he was appointed Director of Training and International Affairs of PAEC and then as Secretary, PAEC. After serving as Director Research at the PAEC Headquarters in Karachi, he returned to PINSTECH again as Director in 1977.

In 1984, Dr. Khan was appointed Chairman,

Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) where he made outstanding contributions by developing laboratories of PCSIR and in greatly enhancing the work culture by promoting scientists on merit. In 1989, he was appointed Advisor (Technical), COMSTECH, where he served for seven years.

Dr. Khan had more than 100 scientific publications, 69 scientific reports and 28 general articles, to his credit. He participated in 75 conferences and seminars and presented 37 papers. Besides teaching Meteorology at the PAF College, Risalpur, Dr. Khan taught post-graduate courses in Physics at Karachi and Punjab Universities. Five PAEC scientists earned their PhD from the University of Punjab under his supervision. Prof. Khan was a Founding Fellow of the Islamic Academy of Sciences (1986). Indeed, he was instrumental in founding the IAS in 1986 along with the late Dr. M. A. Kazi.

Dr. Naeem was a scientist of great integrity and a strong administrator with utmost devotion to his duties. He made seminal contributions to the development of PINSTECH. While working under him, as Head of the Nuclear Physics Division of PINSTECH (1977-1984), I observed that he used to negotiate tooth and nail with suppliers of the expensive equipments for the minimum possible price to save the Institute's money. I was always so impressed by his honesty. Although he was a strong and honest administrator, he never damaged the career of the scientists working under him and never played any intrigues to manoeuvre higher positions. I did not find him having a grudge with

his colleagues. Dr. Khan was truly a legendary leader in science. He was, at the same time, a tough task master and a very kind boss.

Dr. Naeem Khan will be greatly missed by his colleagues and fellow scientists in Pakistan and in

the Islamic World. May God bless his soul with peace and tranquillity in heavens. *Ameen.*

Dr. N. M. Butt

Fellow, Pakistan Academy of Sciences